

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the due consideration given the application. The specification has been amended to insert headings and to improve antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter.

Claims 11-30 are pending in the application. The claims have been amended to improve their language in a non-narrowing fashion.

No new matter is believed to be added to the application by this amendment.

The Specification

The specification has been objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. The comments in the Official Action have been considered, and the specification has been amended accordingly.

Claim Objections

The claims have been objected to as containing informalities. The comments in the Official Action have been considered, and the claims have been amended to be free from informalities.

Rejection Under 35 USC §112, Second Paragraph

Claims 11-30 have been rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The comments in the Official Action have been considered, and the claims have been amended to be clear, definite and have full antecedent basis.

This rejection is believed to be overcome, and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 USC §103(a)

Claims 11-17, 19-27 and 29-30 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over SCHERRER in view of BARKER. Claims 18 and 28 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over SCHERRER in view of BARKER, and further in view of REX. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The present invention pertains to an inclined separating ribband and a false wall formed of stretched fabric and joined by the ribband, this ribband being composed of so-called "invisible" sections to significantly reduce the gap between two adjacent elements of the fabric surface. This gap space can be used to pass the peripheral edge of the fabric for each of the two holding arrangements of the ribband.

This technology of the present invention can be readily observed, by way of example, in Figures 1-4 of the application, which are reproduced below.

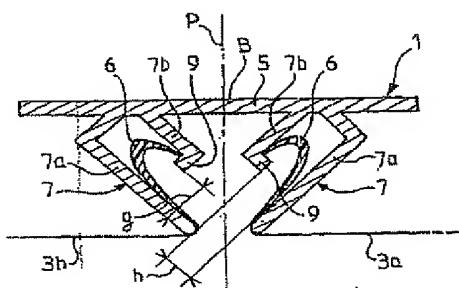


FIG.1

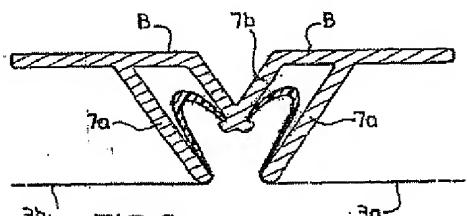


FIG.2

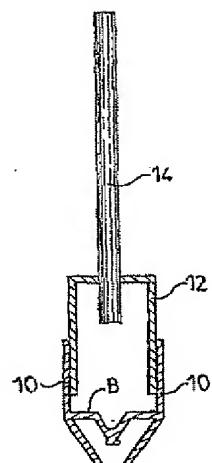


FIG.3

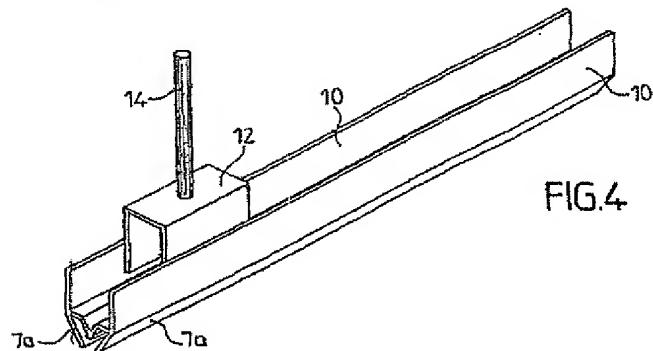
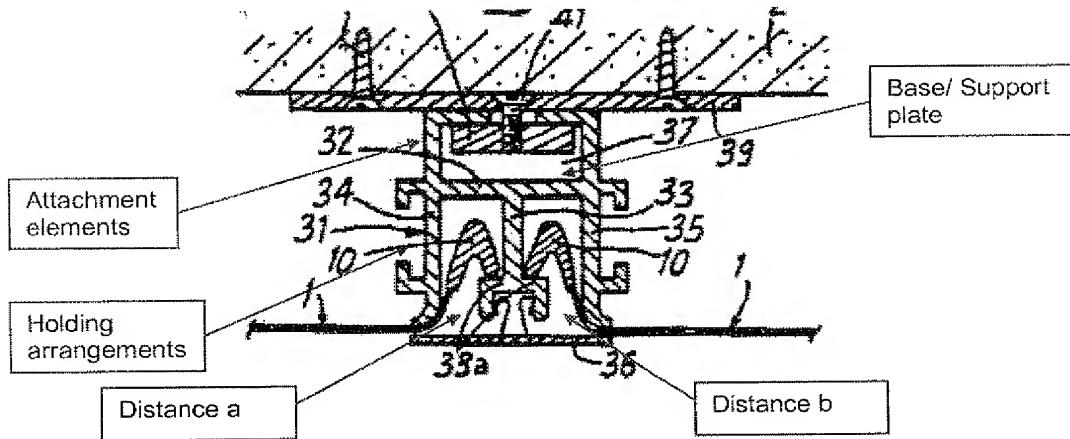


FIG.4

SCHERRER pertains to a false ceiling. The Official Action refers to an annotated copy of Figure 5 of SCHERRER, which is reproduced below.

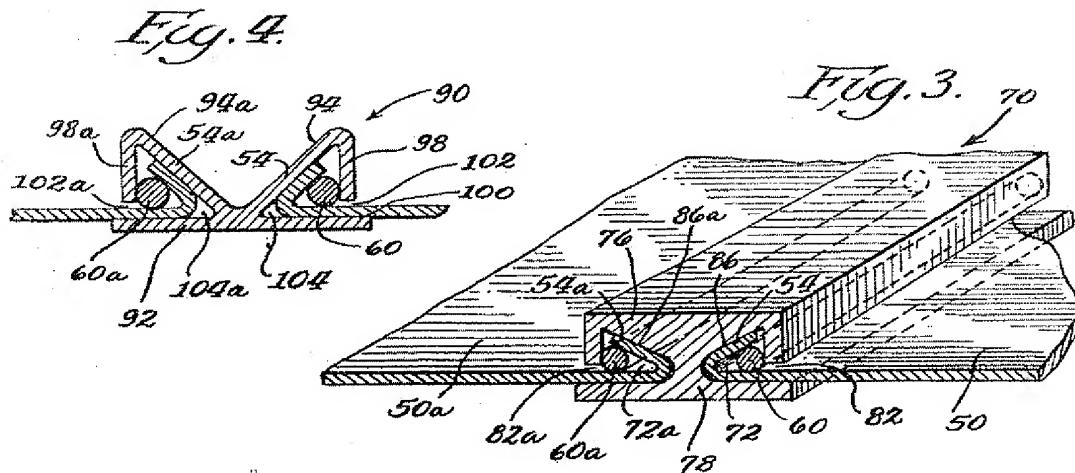
FIGURE 5A



SCHERRER (especially the embodiment shown in Figure 5) reveals a false ceiling from two coplanar horizontal taut sheets 1 that are fastened to the same double rail 31 fixed beneath the ceiling 2. This double rail 31 is formed from an upper horizontal web 32 that is downwardly extended by a vertical central flange 33 and two other vertical flanges 34, 35 of greater height, located on either side of the central vertical flange and at a distance therefrom. The central vertical flange 33 bears at its lower end two shoulders 33a extending horizontally on either side of the flange 33, respectively in the direction of the two flanges 34, 35, and serving to retain the harpoons 10 constituting the borders of the two sheets 1. The two vertical flanges 34, 35 terminate, at their lower ends, in rounded parts beneath which pass the sheets 1, as in the case of the embodiment of Figure 1. A decorative piece 36 is fixed, for example, by clipping to the lower end of the central flange 33 in

order to close the lower part of the rail 31, i.e., to hide and not to reduce the gap between the two sheets of the false ceiling.

BARKER pertains to structural joints. Figures 3 and 4 of BARKER are reproduced below.



BAKER reveals an in-line panel connector 70 including a body 76, two laterally spaced through-channels 72 and 72a formed longitudinally within the body 76 and laterally opening continuous slits 82, 82a communicating with the channels and permitting passage of the panels 50 and 50a and the rod 60 and 60a into the corresponding channels 72 and 72a. In Figure 4 of BARKER, to reduce the weight of the body, a cut-out is formed in the body to obtain elongated webs 94 and 94a. This in-line connector does not reduce the gap between two adjacent elements of the fabric surface.

REX reveals a concrete post and panel noise barrier in which the opposed side walls of the post contain vertical grooves for slidably receiving the panels. Each post further contains two parallel rows of vertically disposed reinforcing bars positioned adjacent the front and back walls of the post. The two rows of reinforcing bars are further strengthened by horizontally disposed connector units that include an endless tie rod positioned between the grooves that loops around at least one bar in each row and a pair of stirrup wires that pass around the outside of the rows of reinforcing bars. The ends of each stirrup wire are turned inward about the end bars in the row and are crossed over each other before being brought into engagement with the tie rod. This document belongs to the domain of concrete posts and not to the domain of stretched ceiling, and thus represents non-analogous art.

None of the applied art documents suggests a ribband technology allowing to reduce the gap between two adjacent elements of the fabric surface. The applied art documents contain no teachings that would cause one of ordinary skill and creativity to produce the particular constructive solution of the invention to address the deficiencies of the related art. Neither SCHERRER nor BARKER (nor REX) covers the gap between two adjacent elements of the fabric surface with a visible piece.

As a result, one of ordinary skill and creativity would fail to produce a claimed embodiment of the present invention

from and knowledge of SCHERRER and BARKER (and REX). A *prima facie* case of unpatentability has thus not been made.

These rejections are believed to be overcome, and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

The Examiner is thanked for considering the Information Disclosure Statement filed August 14, 2006 and for making an initialed PTO-1449 Form of record in the application.

Prior art cited of record but not utilized is believed to be non-pertinent to the instant claims.

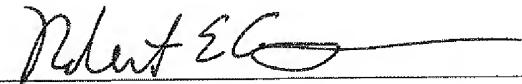
The objections and rejections are believed to have been overcome, obviated or rendered moot, and no issues remain. The Examiner is accordingly respectfully requested to place the application in condition for allowance and to issue a Notice of Allowability.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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